- Establishment of Finishing Schools on a pilot basis by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD);
- DIT initiating measures to generate manpower in key verticals like VLSI Design and Information Security;
- DOEACC Society implementing programmes for generation of quality manpower in the area of Information Technology including ITeS/BPO; and
- Various State Governments have also initiated manpower development programmes in the area of IT/ITeS-BPO.

NASSCOM has been promoting changes in the existing curriculum in association with apex bodies in the country and also initiated *NASSCOM's Assessment of Competence programme (NAC)* to help the ITeS-BPO Industry.

Problems of NER

*348. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Eleventh Plan has recognized the special problems of the North East Region such as its geographical location, inadequacy of physical infrastructure, low level of entrepreneurship etc;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to tackle the North East Region problems during Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) the funds allocated during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Approach to the Eleventh Five Year Plan document, as approved by the National Development Council, has recognized the speical problems of North-East, such as its geographical location, inadequacy of physical infrastructure, low level of entrepreneurship, etc. The document has accorded high priority to improving the transport infrastructure, exploration of natural resources and encouragement to tourism, horticulture, agriculture and forestry. The outlays and priorities during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, both Central and State, would be determined accordingly considering the resource availability.